

St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Burnsville, North Carolina

Vestry Agenda

August 22, 2007

Opening Prayer: *Reverend Bob Reese*

Welcome To Reverend Reese: *Neal Culver and the Vestry welcomed Bob Reese to St. Thomas*

Attendance: *Reverend Bob Reese, Neal Culver, John Davis, Jackie Murray, Charlie Stover, Joann Collins, and Pat Sharkey as Vestry Clerk*

Approval of agenda: *Jackie motioned to approve the agenda for today's meeting, John seconded, all voted in favor.*

Approval of minutes: *Minutes were revised; as corrected, a motion was made by Joann to approve the minutes, seconded by Charlie, all voted in favor.*

Selection of next vestry meeting: *The retreat is scheduled for September 15 and will be held at Higher Pastures beginning at 9 a.m.*

Financial Reports

- Finance Committee: *None given*
- Building Fund: *Current balance \$25,161. Designated gifts to Memorial Garden and landscaping leave \$17,900 for uncommitted funds. Joann asked how much is UCB loan is costing us? Charlie said \$400-\$500 per month (interest only). That will convert to a mortgage in September. Cash on hand is \$25,000, less balance for Children's Chapel is \$11,000. Memorial Garden has been designated \$7,000, leaving a balance of \$7,000. \$15,000 received tonight from UTO plus approximately \$2880 from Parkway Playhouse Dinners. Charlie would like to take money left over after Memorial Garden and Children's Chapel projects are done to pay towards UCB loan. Jackie made a motion to approve the Building Fund Report, Joann seconded and all voted in favor.*

Action Items

- *Convention Delegates: Charlie, and possibly Joann are the delegates, with the two new Vestry members to be alternates. The convention is November 8-10; need to let Bishop's office know who is attending by September 15. We can have two delegates and two sub-delegates. Joann will let Neal know if she can attend.*
- *Additional Commitment to Diocese for 2008: Neal attended the Bishop's Budget Meeting. At a previous Vestry meeting the Vestry agreed to give \$8550 or 13% of our income for the Diocese in 2008. The Diocesan budget is about \$50,000 in the red and this is their second budget meeting. They passed a resolution and all parishes voted to make up the deficit. St. Thomas is #4 out of 62 parishes in our giving. The average parish gives 8.5%. Neal proposed that St. Thomas give \$1000 and that hopefully every one of the 62 parishes would do the same. That action would eliminate the deficit. Joann said she is in favor of doing this, but she feels the Bishop's staff is quite large. Bob said he feels the staff is okay but parishes are not giving what they should, and that is the reason for the deficit. Joann said when we made our 2007 commitment we said we would re-address the amount we would give at some later date. With the \$1,000 extra we are approaching 15% giving. Neal said that he wants to send a message to the Bishop saying you can't stay in the red every year and that we, as a Vestry, wish the Diocese would look at balancing their budget better. Charlie said \$1000 is a good sum and we should put together a carefully written letter along with the points Neal has made. Charlie made a motion to increase the money to the Diocese from \$8550 to \$9550. Joann seconded. Charlie would like to make a statement that we would like to give, but we would like them to make some changes in their budget for 2008. If every parish gave \$1000 they would have their deficit. Bob said that the Bishop could make us as an example, plus it is good politics for St. Thomas. All voted in favor.*
- *Vestry Nominations: Jackie and Robbie are going off the Vestry. John came on after Marianne left. The new terms begin in January, election is in October.*

Senior Warden's Report

Planning for September 15 Vestry Retreat/Budget: The retreat will begin with Bob leading us in a devotional, then go into Goals. Neal would like to invite some

committee heads (Outreach, youth, etc.) as we plan our goals. Joann talked to Jane Stover about Vestry members doing Myers Briggs personality types questionnaire. Jane would lead us for an hour after lunch; give us an idea on how people think. Charlie said it should be a bonding thing, and help us to work more as a team. Helps everyone to show his or her strength in a group setting. Joann then said we would move to the Budget discussion. Neal said if we have committee heads there and tell them they have 5-10 minutes to tell us what they need, that would help.

Committee Reports

Buildings and Grounds

Site plan for St. Thomas buildings and memorial garden: Memorial Garden – Someone asked Charlie if we were going to pay Heather more for her planning of the Memorial Garden (probably yes). Joann asked if Peg agreed this was an acceptable spot? John said yes. Charlie talked with Peg and she thought the location would be good. Joann asked if there are any State statutes we need to research. Wait till Peg returns and ask her if she wants to work with Heather on Memorial Garden.

Bob suggested Gus Boone for youth education. Joann asked if Kerstin Davis would want to speak at the retreat?

Sub-committee on basement: Paid Lars \$18,000 of the \$24,000 contract amount. Painting should be finished. Will ask Gred to help with tile. Lars said he would help with tile also. Specific tables and chairs will be needed for the Children's Chapel.

Stewardship

Fall Plans: Joann will talk about percentage giving to the Vestry at the retreat. Can be started whenever you would want to and you can strive to a goal percentage. Would like to increase Outreach, in particular to David Johnson. Would like to see Outreach go up from \$200 per month. Neal said Diana wants to set up talks to the St. Thomas congregation by the monthly Outreach recipients. Our annual meeting is October 28, pledge cards go out October 1, want pledge cards in by October 21; Joann will talk to the parish October 7, and Bob would give his stewardship sermon on October 14. Joann will organize four lay talks in September. Neal and Joann will mail out pledge cards October 1.

Mission and Ministries

Ministry & Mission Conference: *Neal will talk with Diana regarding her requests; need to find out specifically what she needs. Joann said perhaps we could speak with her on Saturday.*

Search Committee: *The Search Committee has met twice with Barry Kramer. He is steering us in the right direction. At the last meeting talked about what we can ask for and what we should ask for. Will meet on the 10th to compile responses and on the 17th to meet with Barry again. Will have the data by the Retreat.*

Calendar

Budget Process: *Finance Committee will come up with a draft Budget. Charlie will be gone from September 28 through October 20th.*

Old Business

New Business: *We have hired Debra Martinez as the new secretary. She is keeping her own time sheet and is making \$10 per hour. She is submitting time sheets to Charlie.*

John called Norm Evans regarding putting a sign on his property at the bottom of the hill. Charlie asked if we could put the sign we have at the entrance of the parking lot.